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Message Text

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21
ORIGIN EA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66617
DRAFTED BY: EA/VN:JDFINNEY
APPROVED BY: EA/VN:RHWENZEL
EA/VN:OABARTLEY
---------- 072866
R 061834Z JUN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119379

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 3537 SENT SECSTATE DATED JUNE 5.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3537

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS PARM PFOR ICRC VN US
SUBJ ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

REF STATE 112467

1. NOTE CONTAINED PARA 3 REFTEL DELIVERED JUNE 4 TO PRESIDENT ICRC EXECUTIVE BOARD ROGER GALLOPIN.

2. PER INSTRUCTIONS PARA 1 REFTEL, WE REVIEWED ORALLY WITH GALLOPIN THE POSITION REFLECTED IN OUR NOTE AND EXPRESSED PROFOUND REGRET OF USG THAT ICRC CHOSE COURSE OF ACTION OUTLINED IN ITS NOTE.

3. GALLOPIN WAS NOTABLY IMPRESSED WITH CONCERN AND FIRMNESS OF USG POSITION. HE HASTENED TO REITERATE THAT COURSE OF ACTION BEING FOLLOWED BY ICRC WAS BASED ON DECISION OF FULL ICRC ASSEMBLY AND STATED ON ENTRE NOUS BASIS THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD FAVORED A DIFFERENT APPROACH, NAMELY A WEAPONS CONFERENCE
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ON A SMALLER SCALE WITH A LIMITED NUMBER OF SELECTED EXPERTS.

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4. WE INFORMED GALLOPIN THAT USG NOTE WAS CONSIDERED MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD AND SOUGHT CONFIRMATION THAT RESPONSES ICRC RECEIVES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC. ON LATTER POINT GALLOPIN EXPLAINED DECISION OF COMMITTEE TO WITHHOLD INFORMATION COVERING RESPONSES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS UNTIL END JULY (DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES), AT WHICH TIME ICRC WILL REVIEW MATTER AND DECIDE ON FURTHER COURSE OF ACTION.

5. WHEN MISSOFF STRESSED USG'S INTEREST IN BEING KEPT INFORMED ON RESPONSES, GALLOPIN INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO INFORM US ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS OF REACTIONS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS. IF THIS ARRANGEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO DEPARTMENT, MISSION WILL FOLLOW UP WITH ICRC AND SECURE PERIODIC REPORTS. PLEASE ADVISE.ABRAMS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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